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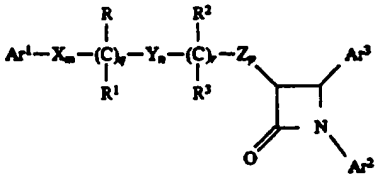
[57] **ABSTRACT**

Hydroxy-substituted azetidinone hypocholesterolemic agents of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. wherein:

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are aryl or R^4-substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5-substituted aryl;

X. Y and Z are $—CH_2—$. —CH(lower alkyl)— or —C(dilower alkyl)—;

R and R^2 are $—OR^6$. $—O(CO)R^6$. $—O(CO)OR^9$ or $—O(CO)NR^6R^7$;

R^1 and R^3 are H or lower alkyl;

q is 0 or 1; r is 0 or 1; m. n and p are 0–4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1. and the sum of m. n. p. q and r is 1–6; and provided that when p is O and r is 1. the sum of m. q and n is 1–5;

R^4 is selected from lower alkyl. R^5. $—CF_3$. —CN. $—NO_2$ and halogen R^5 is selected from $—OR^6$. $—O(CO)R^6$. $—O(CO)OR^9$. $—O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$. $—O(CO)NR^6R^7$. $—NR_6R^7$. $—NR^6(CO)R^7$. $—NR^6(CO)OR^9$. $—NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$. $—NR^6SO_2R^9$. $—COOR^6$. $—CONR^6R^7$. $—COR^6$. $—SO_2NR^6R^7$. $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$. $—O(CH_2)_{1-10}—COOR^6$. $—O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$. —(lower alkylene)$COOR^6$ and —CH=CH—$COOR^6$;

R^6. R^7 and R^8 are H. lower alkyl. aryl or aryl-substituted Ic

R^9 is lower alkyl. aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

are disclosed. as well as a method of lowering serum cholesterol by administering said compounds. alone or in combination with a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor. pharmaceutical compositions containing them; and a process for preparing them.

9 Claims, No Drawings